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Indian Standard
GUIDELINES FOR
GRADING OF RAW HIDES AND SKINS

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BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS
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NEW DELHI 110002

Indian Standard

GUIDELINES FOR GRADING OF RAW HIDES AND SKINS

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Indian Standard

GUIDELINES FOR GRADING OF RAW HIDES AND SKINS

0. FOREWORD

0.1 This Indian Standard was adopted by the Indian Standards Institution on 6 June 1979, after the draft finalized by the Leather Sectional Committee had been approved by the Chemical Division Council.

0.2 Considering the requests from the tanning industry to develop some prompt and easy method of assessing the quality of raw hides and skins, the Leather Sectional Committee decided to formulate this Indian Standard. It is expected that this would be found useful by tanners and raw hide and skin purchasers and selectors.

0.3 The quality of raw hides and skins may differ considerably due to various influencing factors, namely, breed, feeding, living conditions, sex, age and health of the animals, substance (thickness of the hide or skin), appearance of hair, various grain defects, flaying, curing, storage, and transportation of the hides and skins. The selection is generally based on the area or weight, substance, surface defects on grain and flesh sides and general appearance of the hide/skin. It is well recognized that no single test method is capable of evaluating raw cured stock and even today the most accepted method in different parts of the world is to examine the hides visually and by physical handling.

1. SCOPE

1.1 This standard prescribes guidelines for ready assessment of raw hides and skins by visual evaluation applicable to bovine hides, calf skins and goat and sheep skins.

1.1.1 This standard does not lay down specifications of quality for raw hides and skins.

2. TERMINOLOGY

2.1 For the purpose of this standard definitions given in IS : 1640-1960* shall apply.

*Glossary of terms relating to hides, skins and leather.

3. EVALUATION

3.1 General — Finished leather quality may be affected by many of the defects prevailing in raw hides and skins but all of them are not visible in the raw or salted stock. Moreover, the damage caused by some of them are minor and the occurrence of some of the defects is rare.

3.1 Defects — Those defects which are responsible for substantial devaluation of finished leather and are recognizable in the raw/salted state should be considered as the criteria for evaluating raw hide/skin quality.

3.2 Classification — Hides and skins in one lot shall be first classified into different categories according to area or mass and then they should be graded for quality for each category according to Table 1.

TABLE 1 GRADING OF BOVINE HIDES, CALF SKINS AND GOAT AND SHEEP SKINS

(Clause 3.2)

SL No.	HIDE/ SKIN	GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADE 3	GRADE 4 OR REJECTION QUALITY
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
i)	Bovine hides	Well shaped and trimmed hides from young or middle aged animals with no rib marks, having good substance, free from defects (like deep cuts and holes, various grain damages caused by parasitic, viral and helminthic diseases, scratches, abrasives, brand marks, etc, bacterial damage, not more than 1-2 open and 4 blind warbles, free from adhering flesh, fat and extra-neous matter) or hides with minor defects in the offal (not in the croupon) compared to Grade 2	Well trimmed hides of normal substance, with 1 to 2 small flaying holes in the butt or up to 4 holes in the hide (small holes in areas less than 8 cm from the edge need not be counted/hides with deep flay cuts not in the butt)/hides with slight grain damages caused by various agents/hides with 6 visible warble holes or 4 open and 8 blind warbles/hides showing slight ' hair slip ' but no putrefactive damage/hides with red heat developed on the flesh surface/hides badly shaped	Hides having more serious defects than hides of Grade 2 but are better than rejection quality	Hides not suitable for any good type of leather
ii)	Calf skins (cow and buffalo)	Well shaped and trimmed (head and feet shall be trimmed) skins of good substance, with no deep flay cuts or holes (except 1 small hole or a few cuts in the belly area), free from surface defects (caused by parasitic, viral and bacterial diseases, brand-mark, putrefaction, etc)	Well trimmed skins of normal substance with 1 flay hole in the butt or up to 3 holes in the entire skin (small holes in the offal, less than 4 cm from the edges need not be counted)/skins with a few deep flay cuts/skins with 3 open and 5 blind warbles/skins showing slight ' hair-slip ' or ' red-heat ' on the flesh side but no putrefaction/skin shaped badly	Skins more seriously damaged than those of Grade 2 but better than rejection quality	Not suitable for any good type of leather

(Continued)

TABLE 1 GRADING OF BOVINE HIDES, CALF SKINS AND GOAT AND SHEEP SKINS — *Contd*

SL No.	HIDE/ SKIN	GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADE 3	GRADE 4 OR REJECTION QUALITY
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
iii)	Goat and sheep skins	Skins of good substance with no deep flay cuts or holes (except 1 small hole or a few cuts in the belly area) free from surface defects (caused by mange mites, pock marks, brand marks, bacterial dama- ge, etc); head and feet shall be trimmed	Well shaped and trimmed skins with normal substance (not papery), having not more than 1 to 2 small holes or a few flay cuts in the belly area, or having not more than 4 to 6 lesions or small scales caused by skin diseases, brand marks, etc (not in belly area)/skins with slight hair slip but no putrefaction	Skins having more severe defects than Grade 2 but better than rejection quality	Skins not suitable for any type of leather

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